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FORMATIONS AND FEATURES OF E-DEMOCRACY IN UZBEKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

the article reveals the concept and essence of e-government and e-democracy, their inseparable relationship. "E-government" is a single mechanism of interaction between the state, citizens and business, as well as government agencies themselves. In this mechanism, information and communication technologies are actively used: websites, information systems, databases, integrated among themselves. Simply put, e-government facilitates communication with public authorities, helps reduce queues, simplifies the process of obtaining certificates, certificates, licenses and other documents, helping all parties: public authorities, entrepreneurs and ordinary citizens to work more efficiently. And electronic democracy-based on the use of network computer technologies, a mechanism for ensuring political communication, contributing to the implementation of the principles of democracy and allowing to bring the political structure in accordance with the real needs of the emerging information society.

The article emphasizes that e-democracy is an integral phenomenon of globalization. As a result, the development of modern information technologies, including the Internet, has led to the emergence of new democratic political models and virtual social relations. The article analyzes the processes of formation and the main features of electronic democracy in the realities of Uzbekistan, where various forms of electronic democracy such as:

- conduct an election process using ICT. As a result, it is possible, regardless of the place of residence, even outside the country, to vote by electronic system. Information system of electoral process management, successfully tested during the elections to the district Kengashes of people's deputies of Tashkent in December 2017, with the creation of a Single electronic voter list (UESI);.

- live video broadcast on O'zbekistan TV channel of the session of the legislative chamber of the Parliament of Uzbekistan, where the parliamentarians of the Republic discussed various bills;

- the system of impact assessment of legislative acts (sovaz), as a public arena of opinions on pre-published draft laws and regulatory legal acts, is becoming more and more important;

- active participation of the public in social networks, expression of their views and approaches on various socio-political issues of the country;

- the formation of Internet journalism, the manifestation of the activity of bloggers on socio-political issues occurring in the country, where the problems that concern the people are raised, attract the attention of the government and other state bodies to address these issues.

Key words: democracy, e-government, e-democracy, information society, Internet culture.

INTRODUCTION

Today there are more than 200 States in the world, about 160 of them are on the democratic path of development. In these countries, the establishment of democracy is recognized by the international community as a national and universal value. It is now becoming increasingly clear that democracy is the most acceptable way of development for the human way of life.

In the context of globalization, the transition to the information society leads to the transformation of political institutions of democracy. As a result of the rapid development of modern information technologies, the debate on the theory of democracy has intensified. The discussions focused on the nature of the impact of the Internet on democratic institutions and processes. There is no doubt that the development of the Internet is already affecting modern power relations.

E-democracy ("e-democracy"," virtual democracy") is a form of democracy that characterizes the use of information and communication technologies as the main means for collective thinking (crowdsourcing) and administrative processes (information, joint decision-making-electronic voting, control of the execution of decisions, etc.) at all levels –from the level of local government to international [1].

E-democracy and e-government should be distinguished. Stephen Clift (StivenClift) emphasizes: "E-democracy" (e-democracy) and "e-government" (e-government) are completely different concepts. If the latter

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means improving the speed and convenience of access to the services of the state from any place and at any time, the former refers to the use of information technology to empower every citizen. Some researchers (for example, sociologist I. eidman) use the term network democracy instead of the term e-democracy. Grachev M. N. and Madatov A. S. give such a definition of e-democracy. Electronic democracy is a mechanism of political communication based on the use of network computer technologies, which contributes to the implementation of the principles of democracy and allows to bring the political structure in line with the real needs of the emerging information society[2].

Since the mid-90s of the last century, e-democracy (Internet democracy) has entered the path of its development, although the end of this path is still very far away. Development began with the organization of electronic governments of various kinds. Analyzing the world experience in the formation and development of the "E-government" system, it is customary to distinguish two main models of political strategy for the formation of e – government - "Western" and "Eastern". Canada, Singapore, the Netherlands, Finland, Norway, Australia and Estonia have made great strides in this area.

Gradually, with scientists realizing the possibilities of the Global network, various theories of electronic or cloud democracy began to appear. The authors of the book "Cloud democracy" L. Volkov and F. Krasheninnikov, released in 2011 in Yekaterinburg, propose to create an innovative Internet system in which every citizen will be able to participate in the political processes of the country. Every politically active citizen, thanks to an individual electronic signature, will have the opportunity not only to vote for bills, but also to propose them himself. As this citizen will have the right to delegate the vote on this or that problem to more competent person-the expert. Thus, the Creator and holder of power and law, in a certain sense, will be the people[3].

It should be noted that in Uzbekistan, as in other countries, the development of e-democracy began with the organization of e-government. Today, the country is rapidly implementing the Concept of e-government development, designed for the period 2018-2021. It is impossible not to notice positive quantitative and qualitative indicators in the dynamics of development of the national information space of Uzbekistan. The system of "Electronic government" is developing, which is the basis for the formation of electronic democracy. The development of e-government undoubtedly has a positive impact on the development of e-democracy. Therefore, the government is carrying out purposeful work to create in a short time a reliable infrastructure of "Electronic government", which will bring the relationship between government agencies, the population and entrepreneurs to a qualitatively new level.

In our opinion, it will be appropriate to briefly highlight the essence and content of e-government and the work done in the country in this industry. The E-government system is a single mechanism of interaction between the state, citizens and business, as well as the state bodies themselves. In this mechanism, information and communication technologies are actively used: websites, information systems, databases, integrated among themselves. Simply put, e-government facilitates communication with public authorities, helps reduce queues, simplifies the process of obtaining certificates, certificates, licenses and other documents, helping all parties: public authorities, entrepreneurs and ordinary citizens to work more efficiently. 201 centers of public service agencies have been established and are working effectively on the territory of the Republic, which provide 103 types of services to the population.[4].

On 30 July 2016, the United Nations released the next Review of e-government in the world for 2016 (UN E-Government Survey 2016) entitled "E-government in support of Sustainable Development" (E-Government in Support of Sustainable Development). It should be noted that this study is conducted every two years by the UN Department of economic and social Affairs, since 2003, and is one of the most authoritative rankings of e-government promotion in 193 countries around the world.

The main indicator of the report is the E - Government Development Index (EGDI), which assesses the degree of development of electronic services, it infrastructure and human capital. In the ranking of 2016, Uzbekistan with the EGDI index at 0.54335, which is higher than the average world index, entered the group of countries with a high level of e-government development. As a result of the large-scale measures taken in the country, Uzbekistan has significantly improved its position in the UN 2017 ranking on the level of development of e-government, took 47th place among the States using the "E-government" system[5]. According to the results of 2017, Uzbekistan ranks 3rd among the CIS countries[6].The UN also appreciates the launch of the sovaz portal (regulation.gov.uz) and open data portal (data.gov.uz). As a result of the implementation of the concept of e-government development, the Republic plans to become one of the 50 leading countries in the world in terms of E-government development and 80 in terms of cybersecurity.

Such an international assessment is a consequence of the special attention of the country's leadership to the development of ICT and E-government in Uzbekistan. For example, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan from 27 June 2013, adopted the Comprehensive program of development of National

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information-communication systems of Uzbekistan for 2013-2020, the Center of development of system "Electronic government" and Center for ensuring information security. Currently, "e-government" in Uzbekistan is transferred under the control of the National Agency for project management under the President (NAPU). NAPU was appointed the authorized body in the field of e-government, as well as the introduction of information systems in public administration, responsible for the development and implementation of a unified policy, and the coordination of activities of state bodies and organizations in this area. A Single portal of interactive public services was launched in the country (my.gov.uz), which to date has processed more than 1 million electronic appeals of individuals and legal entities.

An important element is the Virtual reception of the President and the portal of housing and communal services (housing and communal services). The virtual reception of the head of state is also part of the "Electronic government" system. In accordance with the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, since the beginning of 2017, Virtual reception rooms have also been opened for heads of state bodies, khokims of regions, cities and districts, rectors of universities, banks, law enforcement agencies and so on. The e-Kommunal portal of public utilities and housing, which helps thousands of citizens to solve problems in the sphere of housing and communal services, is also included in this system. This also applies to the national database of legislation of the Lex.uz.

It should be noted that as of October 31, 2018, the Virtual reception of the President received more than 2.3 million applications from citizens of the Republic, of which about 97 percent were considered[7].

The authoritative British newspaper "TheFinancialTimes" published an article "Uzbekistan: e-government contributes to the deepening of representative democracy and state transparency", noting the accelerated pace of development and implementation of information and communication technologies in all spheres of life of the state and society.

Today, the country has a population of more than 33.7 million people, of which more than 60 percent are young people, 22 million people use cellular communication, and more than 20 million people use the Internet. This makes it possible to facilitate the interaction of state bodies and citizens.

It should be noted that the introduction and development of system "Electronic government" in Uzbekistan elevated to the rank of national priority, signed more than 40 government decisions on this issue, has developed a legal framework set out in the Law "On electronic government", and subsequently adopted by the Parliament of Uzbekistan. These and other actions planned in the framework of implementation of the Strategy for 2017-2021, no doubt, further strengthen the potential of development of system "Electronic government", able to ensure the transparency of activities of public authorities, optimization of public services and business enhancing e-participation of citizens in the governance process.

We can safely say that the system of" Electronic government " in Uzbekistan is primarily created for citizens. In short, E-government promotes e-democracy and public transparency and lays a solid Foundation for building the future of Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan is rapidly developing various forms of electronic democracy such as:

- work on the introduction of ICT in the electoral process, it is planned to conduct elections using ICT. As a result, it is possible, regardless of the place of residence, even outside the country, to vote by electronic system. The information system for managing the electoral process was successfully tested during the elections to the district Kengashes of people's deputies of Tashkent in December 2017, with the creation of a Single electronic voter list (UESI).

- on the eve of the elections of the Supreme legislative chamber "Oliy Majlis" and local authorities regularly hold televised debates of representatives of five parties, "open communication", video conferences with the participation of representatives of various strata of the population and ministries, departments on topical issues of concern to the population. During the live broadcast, people ask their questions, get reasonable answers. This shows that telecommunications and information technologies provide new opportunities for people to Express their will. In short, technology should further strengthen the democratic process and ultimately serve the interests of the entire nation.

- live video broadcast on the TV channel O'zbekistan of the session of the legislative chamber of the Parliament of Uzbekistan, where the parliamentarians of the Republic discussed various bills.

- the system of assessing the impact of legislative acts (sovaz) as a public arena of opinions on pre-published draft laws and regulations is becoming increasingly important. All documents will be published on the official website of the legislative chamber of the Parliament, and the public will be able to Express their suggestions and recommendations. The web resource has already published such bills as "on the Commissioner under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of business entities", "Protection of children from information harmful to their health", "on the dissemination of legal information and ensuring access to it", etc.

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- active participation of the public in social networks, expression of their views and approaches on various socio-political issues of the country;

- the formation of Internet journalism, the manifestation of the activity of bloggers on socio-political issues occurring in the country, where the problems that concern the people are raised, attract the attention of the government and other state bodies to address these issues. Bloggers in their publications on social networks raise topical and topical issues, including social issues, education, legal literacy, ecology, that is, the most painful points of Uzbek people, and they give specific proposals to solve these problems. The comprehensive program of the information space of Uzbekistan for 2019-2021 provides for the streamlining of blogging activities and improvement of the mechanism of management of this sphere, as well as the creation of a national club of bloggers.

In General, e-democracy is about increasing citizen participation in society through the use of Network resources. That is, its most important characteristic is the orientation to the initiative "from below" [8].

But it is necessary and political culture of participants in the political life of the country. As correctly argues researcher from Russia S. D. Abramova " ... on backdrop of low political Internet culture can lead to heavy consequences. How often do we see online abuse, not one iota, does not bring us closer to solving specific issues? For transition to electronic democracy it is necessary that society would be not only technically, but also psychologically ready to this step.

Electronic voting, in a sense, can exacerbate crisis trends in a democratic society. The desire to take into account the General will of the people on any political issue, that is, to translate politics into a continuous referendum, threatens total manipulation of voters"[9].

Therefore, it can be argued that for the transition to e-democracy, simple technical readiness, as it turns out, is not enough. First of all, e-democracy should be based on a certain political and Internet culture. Until certain foundations of culture, political culture and Online activism are established, it seems unlikely that an effective system of online democracy will emerge.

In our opinion, due attention should be paid in the Republic to the issues of information security, the development of the Uzbek-speaking segment of the world information network Internet, increasing media literacy of the population, the level of training of journalists, their knowledge of their rights and obligations, the qualitative integration of the Republic into the global information space, which creates difficulties in the formation of an information society in the country.

We hope that in the near future citizens will influence politics not only every four or five years through voting, but continuously: through political recommendations and ideas structured on Internet platforms, through participation in virtual campaigns and other forms of participation.

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